

**REMARKS**

**INTRODUCTION:**

In accordance with the foregoing, the specification has been amended to improve form. Claims 1, 4, 8, 10, 12, 13, and 15 have been amended, and claims 16-18 have been added in accordance with the interview with the Examiner on May 15, 2003.

No new matter is being presented, and approval and entry of the foregoing amendments and new claims are respectfully requested.

Claims 1-18 are pending and under consideration.

**PATENTABILITY OF NEW CLAIMS:**

It is respectfully submitted that claims 16-18 are deemed patentable for reasons similar to why claim 1 is deemed patentable and as discussed in the interview with the Examiner on May 15, 2003.

**CONCLUSION:**

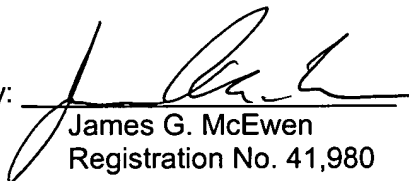
In accordance with the foregoing, it is respectfully submitted that all outstanding objections and rejections have been overcome and/or rendered moot. And further, it is respectfully submitted that all pending claims patentably distinguish over the prior art. Thus, there being no further outstanding objections or rejections, the application is submitted as being in condition for allowance which action is earnestly solicited.

If the Examiner has any remaining issues to be addressed, it is believed that prosecution can be expedited by the Examiner contacting the undersigned attorney for a telephone interview to discuss resolution of such issues.

If there are any additional fees associated with the filing of this Amendment, please charge the same to our Deposit Account No. 19-3935.

Respectfully submitted,

STAAS & HALSEY LLP

By:   
James G. McEwen  
Registration No. 41,980

700 Eleventh Street, N.W.  
Suite 500  
Washington, D.C. 20001  
Telephone: (202) 434-1500  
Facsimile: (202) 434-1501

Date: MAY 22, 2003